

12/13

REMARKS

Claims 1-48 are pending in the application. In the Office Action mailed June 30, 2005, the Examiner has required the Applicants to elect one of two perceived patentably distinct claim species:

Group I (Claims 16-24 and 40-48); and

Group II (Claims 1-15 and 25-39).

Currently, no claims are designated as generic.

I. Preliminary Amendment to add Generic Claims

The Applicants have added new independent claims 49 and 50 as generic method and apparatus claims, respectively, for the species of Groups I and II. Support for these amendments are found in the specification at least at paragraph [0006], paragraph [0036], and in the Abstract. No new matter is added by this amendment.

The Applicants have also amended formerly independent method claims 1 and 16 to depend on new generic method claim 49 and formerly independent apparatus claims 25 and 40 to depend on new generic apparatus claim 50. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner admit this amendment and designate Claims 49 and 50 as generic.

II. Election

As required under 35 U.S.C. 121, the Applicants elect, without traverse, to prosecute Group II (claims 1-15 and 25-39), with generic claims 49 and 50, on the merits. The Applicants reserve the right to request consideration of the claims of Group I (claims 16-24 and 40-48) upon the allowance of generic claims 49 and 50.

III. Conclusion

The Applicants have added new claims 49 and 50, have respectfully requested that new claims 49 and 50 be declared generic to Groups I and II, have amended formerly independent claims 1 and 16 to depend on new claim 49 and formerly independent claims 25 and 40 to depend on claim 50, and have provisionally elected Group II for prosecution on the merits with new generic claims 49 and 50. Should there remain any unresolved issues, it is respectfully

13/13

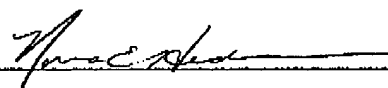
requested that the Examiner telephone Norma E. Henderson, Applicants' Attorney, at 603-225-4334, so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hinckley, Allen & Snyder LLP

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Date

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